

BOROUGH OF WILKINSBURG COUNCIL MEETING
Planning Session
February 1, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Ms. McCarthy-Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 PM in Council Chambers, second floor of the Municipal Building, 605 Ross Ave., Wilkinsburg, PA.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called to establish a quorum. Present were Mr. Lefebvre, Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson and Ms. Macklin. Marla P. Marcinko, Borough Manager was also present. Absent were Ms. Ervin, Ms. Moore, Ms. Goodman and President Cohn. A quorum was established.

Mayor John Thompson arrived at approximately 6:42 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the pledge of allegiance, a moment of silence was observed for victims of violent crime.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Maurin – 7416 Lighthouse Point - Addressed Council concerning a petition submitted for paving in the Beacon Hill development. Mr. Maurin was advised that a street construction project is being considered for the area. Ms. Macklin advised that the final decision on material has not yet been made.

Ms. Moore connected via telephone at 6:42 PM.

Mr. Maurin brought the issue of truck traffic on Lighthouse Point to Council's attention and requested that be taken into consideration when considering the appropriate material for the roadway. He inquired as to whether there were weight limits on the roadway. He further advised that dumping is occurring in the cemetery and inquired if an agreement exists between the cemetery and Amore Management to allow this activity. Ms. Marcinko will refer this matter to Code Enforcement.

Kate Luxemburg 432 Rebecca Ave. – Thanked Chief Ophelia Coleman for the meeting. Ms. Luxemburg suggested that updating of the abandoned structures inventory be limited to structural issues.

FINANCE

Approving Resolution No. 12-008

Authorizing second addendum to agreement of sale 1900 Graham Blvd.

Ms. Macklin questioned whether the action is to approve the purchase and was advised that the addendum provides for the extension of the closing date.

Moved: Ms. Trice

Second: Ms. Moore

Yes: Ms. Evans, Ms. Trice, Ms. Moore, Ms. McCarthy-Johnson, Ms. Macklin, Mr. Lefebvre

Motion carried

2011 Year-end Financial Statements

David Egler, Finance Director, advised Council that entries are continuing to be made to the year-end statements. The audit will begin February 27, 2012. Ms. Macklin questioned the revenue disbursement to the Library.

Vice-President McCarthy-Johnson invited Chief Coleman to speak. Chief Coleman commented on the truck inspection program which had been operated by the Police Department when Officer Balocik was employed. Chief Coleman will be talking with neighboring municipalities about a joint program. She informed Council of an arrest in a shooting incident on Foliage Street.

GENERAL MATTERS

Discussion – Updating abandoned structures inventory.

Ms. Marcinko recommended that the Engineer be instructed to update the condition of the structures on the abandoned structures inventory. This item will be added to the February 8, 2012 agenda.

Ms. Evans agreed on the need to update the listing and commented on other rating systems being employed by other groups with which she is working such as PCRG (Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group) and PNCIS.

Ms. Macklin commented on the Comprehensive Plan and consideration being given to neighborhoods and properties in a state of decline. She expressed the need for a focused approach to demolition, targeting streets for borough services (i.e. street paving) and taking a more holistic approach to address those areas which are in transition.

Mr. Lefebvre questioned whether all structures in the Borough would be reviewed and not just those on the current list. Ms. Marcinko advised that she believed that to be the case.

Ms. Macklin commented on Business Privilege Tax collections which have improved over prior year. She commented about the need to collect BPT on rental property income. Ms. Marcinko advised that multi-unit information had been sent to Berkheimer. Ms. Evans requested that the matter of tax delinquencies in the business district be added to a future agenda for discussion. Ms. Macklin requested a copy of the spreadsheet showing said delinquencies.

Richard Bradford commented on the upcoming 125th Year anniversary of the Borough's incorporation and requested that Council consider a resolution declaring "In Wilkinsburg" as the official song of the Borough. He also suggested reinstating the Borough flag as the official flag of the Borough.

Mayor John Thompson informed Council of the fundraising effort to sell decals commemorating the anniversary. There are four standing committees working on the anniversary celebration. All meetings are open to the public.

Mayor Thompson announced that the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Concert will be held on March 6, 2012 at 7:00 PM at Wilkinsburg High School.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, on motion by Ms. Trice, second by Mr. Lefebvre, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 PM.

Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Council Vice President